

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The below listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. In this paper, claims 40, 45, and 50 have been amended; claims 41, 46, and 51 have been canceled without prejudice.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 39. (Canceled).

40. (Currently amended) An intravascular guide wire, comprising:
a core having a proximal core section with proximal and distal ends, and a distal core section with proximal and distal ends;
a weld that does not include a filler material at a joint connecting the distal end of the proximal core section to the proximal end of the distal core section of the intravascular guide wire;
wherein the joint is not covered by a sleeve.

41. (Canceled).

42. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 40, wherein the weld is accomplished through heat and pressure.

43. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 40, wherein the joint further comprises a first shape at the distal end of the proximal core section and a second shape complementary to the first shape at the proximal end of the distal core section.

44. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 40, wherein the joint includes no gap in between the distal end of the proximal core section and the proximal end of the distal core section.

45. (Currently amended) An intravascular guide wire having at least two core materials joined together without the use of a hypotube, comprising:

a core having a proximal core section with a proximal end and a distal end, and a distal core section with a proximal end and a distal end;

the distal end of the proximal core section and the proximal end of the distal core section being aligned complementary to one another; and

a welded joint that does not include a filler material disposed between the distal end of the proximal core section and the proximal end of the distal core section of the intravascular guide wire;

wherein the at least two core materials are joined together without the use of a hypotube.

46. (Canceled).

47. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 45, wherein the welded joint includes no gap in between the distal end of the proximal core section and the proximal end of the distal core section.

48. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 45, wherein the welded joint includes a mass of hardened material.

49. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 45, wherein the distal end of the proximal core section and the proximal end of the distal core section abut each other at the welded joint.

50. (Currently amended) An intravascular guide wire, comprising:
a core having a proximal core section with proximal and distal ends, and a distal core section with proximal and distal ends;
means for welding the core sections together that does not include a filler material disposed at a joint in between the distal end of the proximal core section and the proximal end of the distal core section of the intravascular guide wire;

wherein the joint is not covered by a sleeve.

51. (Canceled).

52. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 50, wherein the means for welding includes a mass of hardened material.

53. (Previously presented) The guide wire of claim 50, wherein the distal end of the proximal core section and the proximal end of the distal core section abut each other at the joint.